refinery projects are currently being implemented, v.z.,

	Capacity
Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals	3 MMTPA
Panipat Refinery of IOC	6 ,,
Numaligarh Refinery, Assam	3 ,,

Allotment of Petrol/Diesel Outlets

1775. SHRI S.S. SUREJEWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present policy of allotment of Petrol/diesel, Kerosene and L.D.O. outlets etc.;

(b) what are the terms and conditions and actual procedure presently followed by State/Central oil Boards constituted for the allotment of above outlets;

(c) what is the discreation of the Minister/Deputy Minister in the allotment of outlets and the details of the outlets as mentioned above which were allotted during the last three years by the Ministers/Oil Boards;

(d) the name of outlets which have been providing services to the consumers;

(e) whether Government have reviewed this procedure;

(f) whether Government will follow a uniform policy for each citizen of the country; and

(g) whether Government have received complaints of irregularities committed by the Oil Board, if so, the details thereof alongwith the tenure of their members particularly of Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) As per existing policy petrol/diesel retail outlets and SKO/LDO dealership are awarded by the oil companies on the recommendations of the Oil Selection Boards who make selections through interviews of persons applying against advertisements and meeting the eligibility criteria for different categories in the following manner :—

SC/ST	....	25%
PH	....	7½%
Defence Personnel	....	7½
Freedom Fighter	....	5%
Open	....	55%

A few allotments of dealerships are also made by the Government on compassionate grounds in deserving cases keeping in view the circumstances of each case, including the recommendations of MPs and other VIPs. During the last 3 years, i.e. 1990-91 to 1992-93, Government had allotted 315 dealerships/distributorships under discretionary powers.

(d) All outlets are meant to serve consumers.

(e) and (f) The existing policy for allotment of dealerships through Oil Selection Boards has uniform application. There is no proposal to review the procedure at present.

(g) Members of Oil Selection Boards have been given a tenure of 2 years. Complaints, if any, are looked into.

Alleged Indulgence in MRTP by ONGC and Oil India Ltd.

1776. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the two public sector oil units—ONGC and Oil India Ltd. are facing a Government probe for allegedly indulging the monopolistic and restrictive trade practices; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an Ahmedabad-based voluntary organisation—National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL) is also examining charges of monopolistic and restrictive

major oil companies for under-utilising the available capacity of production thereby lowering crude oil output, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this leaves room for imports of crude oil and, as such the adverse balance of payments position is primarily due to the import of crude and other petroleum products by these two major oil companies, if so, what are the reasons for this shortcoming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) National Council for Civil Liberties, Ahmedabad has lodged a complaint with the Director General of Investigation and Registeration of MRTP Commission in January, 1993 alleging, interalic, under-utilisation of the available capacity of the production, by deliberately lowering down the crude oil production, by ONGC and OIL.

(c) The shortfall in crude oil production is mainly due to :—

(i) Slippages in projects;
(ii) Strike by the employees;
(iii) Reservoir constraints in WRBC
(iv) Floods/power shortages etc.;
(v) Frequent bandhs/barricades in the eastern region;
(vi) Rectificatory measures in Bombay High field.

The deficit is made good by imports to meet the essential needs of the economy.

Oil Exploration by ONGC at Ichapur well-1 in West Bengal

1777. DR. ASHOK MITRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that preliminary explorations by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission at the site of Ichapur Well-1 located in North 24-Parganas, West Bengal have indicated the possibility of extraction of high grade oil;

(b) if so, what are the details of the chemical and other properties of the oil struck at the location; and

(c) what follow-up measures have been taken by the ONGC and Government for the extraction of oil and gas for commercial purposes from Ichapur and its neighbourhood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The exploratory drilling work at the site of Ichapur-1 well has indicated non-commercial flow of 1 m^3/day, condensate with 1600 to 2000 m^3/day low pressure gas during testing from the interval 4346-4349 m.

(b) The hydrocarbon fluid from Ichapur-1 is CONDENSATE in nature having low density, low pour point, low asphaltene and low wax content. It is paraffinic napthenic in nature.

The stable carbon isotopic studies on gases indicate thermal origin. Gases are wet gases which contain higher hydrocarbons upto Pentane. It has high proportion of nitrogen and is devoid of other inert gases.

(c) The find is so far non-commercial, however, a step-out location Ichapur-2 is under drilling to delineate the extension of the pay sand. The area is also being covered by 3-D seismic survey.

Cooking Gas connections to Freedom Fighters

1778. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed cooking gas connection on out of turn basis to the families of freedom fighters; and

(b) if not, whether Government